

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 05120 090646Z

12

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-20 IO-10

VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00

/105 W

----- 074452

R 090541Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4904

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5120

USLO PEKING FOR CROSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF US SV HK

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF SELF-EVACUATED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES:

THE US POLICY AND HONG KONG

REF: STATE 107610

SUMMARY: POLICY GUIDANCE SO FAR SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FIT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE SITUATION IN HONG KONG IT IS HOPED THAT USG CAN BE SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING ALONG THE LINES INDICATED HERIN. END SUMMARY

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE POLICY GUIDANCE PROVIDED REFTEL, IT DOES NOT STRICTLY APPLY TO THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG. NONE OF THE REGUGEES HERE "HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE" IN HONG KONG. EITHER, THEY HAVE BY CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL ARRIVED ILLEGALLY IN THE COLONY AND WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE "IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE RESPONSIBILITY" OF HONG KONG. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 05120 090646Z

KONG. NEVERTHELESS, THE HKG , ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, HAS

ACCEPTED THEM TEMPORARILY AND IS TAKING CARE OF THEM WHILE SEEKING THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN OBTAINING RELIEF FROM THIS BURDEN. IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THE HKG WILL LOOK TO THE US TO ACCEPT THOSE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG WHO HAVE TIES WITH THE US. THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM WHO WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE SUCH TIES.

2. THE FIRST GROUP FOR WHICH WE WILL BE EXPECTED TO ANSWER ARE THOSE 58 ON BOARD THE SWISS AIR FILGHT FROM BANGKOK APRIL 30 WHO WERE BROUGHT INTO THE COLONY UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF A PUBLIC-SPIRITED CALIFORNIAN. THERE WERE GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL STAY OF 24 HOURS IN HONG KONG AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S INTERVENTION WITH THE HKG ON INSTRUCTONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT (STATE 101380). THE REQUEST FOR DELAY CARRIED WITH IT THE IMPLICIT UNDERSTANDING WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD MOVING THEM ON TO US (HK 4767). AN ADDITIONAL ONE WEEK STAY WAS AUTHORIZED BY HKG AS RESULT OF DEPARTMENT'S INTERVENTION WITH BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON (STATE 101706). THE WEEK EXPIRES ON MAY 11.

3. NINE VIETNAMESE FROM AN EARILER AIR AMERICA FLIGHT HAVE JOINED THE 58 IN A SEPARATE HONG KONG ENCAMPMENT. THE US AIR-LINE ILLEGALLY BROUGHT THESE NINE PERSONS INTO HONG KONG AND HKG AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THE AIRLINE AND /OR THE USG TO BE RESPONSIBLE.

4. THE US TIES TO THE 3,700 S.S. CLARA MAERSK REGUGEES HAVE NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. THE REFUGEES ARE BEING SCREENED BY HKG IMMIGRATION PRIOR TO DIRECT APPEALS TO THER COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE HONG KONG ITSELF MUST ABSORB SOME, THE HKG IS PRESSURING THE US, FRANCE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, THE UK AND OTHERS TO AGREE TO ACCEPT THOSE OF THE SHIPWRECKED REFUGEES WHO EXPRESS PREFERENCE FOR SETTLEMENT IN THOSE COUNTRIES AND WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEY HAVE TIES THERE. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT HKG WILL RECEIVE SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE.

5. THE GUIDELINES IN REFTEL SAY THAT THE US DOES NOT RPT NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEES REFERRED TO ABOVE. THE GUIDELINES, HOWEVER, SEEM AT ODDS WITH WHAT AMBASSADOR BROWN HAS SAID PUBLICLY IN HIS TESTIMONY MAY 5 TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 05120 090646Z

COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED THIRD COUNTRIES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ASYLUM IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SECOND, HE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE A CASE-BY-CASE OR CLASS-BY-CLASS CONSIDERATION BY USG. THIS APPROACH WOULD CERTAINLY BE ACCEPTABLE IN THE HONG KONG SITUATION.

6. REFTEL GUIDELINES APPEAR TO PLACE OUTSIDE OF US CONSIDERATION

ALL THOSE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO WERE NOT ABLE TOGET THEMSELVES INCLUDED IN OUR OWN HASTILY IMPROVISED AND ADMITTEDLY IMPERFECT EVACUATION. IT IS OUR OWN VIEW THAT, UNLESS WE ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THOSE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG WHO ARE LEGITIMATELY OUR CONCERN, WE WILL BE REFUSING TO ASSIST HONG KONG TO INTERNATIONALIZE ITS REFUGEES BURDEN AND THEREBY UNDERCUT OUR OWN EFFORTS TO INTERNATIONALIZE OUR OWN BURDEN.

7. REQUEST FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
GETSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK05120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750163-0367
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750567/aaaacisv.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 107610
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF SELF-EVACUATED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: THE US POLICY AND HONG KONG
TAGS: SREF, US, VS, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006